

Education Conclave 2026

CM Omar Abdullah appoints 117 lecturers;
waives tuition fee for AAY studentsHIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 08

In a landmark move in Jammu & Kashmir's education sector, the Government today revived appointments to School Lecturer posts, with the Chief Minister handing over appointment letters to 117 newly selected lecturers. These appointments are the first lecturer appointments in the Education Department in many years.

The Chief Minister also fulfilled his Budget 2026 commitment by announcing a full fee waiver for school and college students belonging to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. This move is expected to make education affordable and accessible.

These decisions were announced by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during Education Conclave 2026 - "Buniyaad Se Bulandi Tak" which was organised by Samagra Shiksha & Departments of School and Higher Education.

The conclave also saw the launch of several educational infrastructural and digital initiatives. The Chief Minister inaugurated 2109 works in the Education sector worth more than 115 crore rupees, besides inaugurating a studio for virtual classes and a high tech auditorium for Government College of Engineering



TechnologyJammu.

Recognising the stellar academic performance of students, the Chief Minister also felicitated 67 meritorious school and college students and honoured National Award-winning teachers.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected exhibition stalls showcasing student innovations, institutional reforms and technological initiatives.

The Chief Minister praised these young minds, saying their innovative work ranging from patents to start-ups proved how technology and good education can solve everyday problems and help real people.

Appreciating Education Minister Sakina Itoo for initiating several reforms and

budgetary interventions, the Chief Minister assured that the government would continue investing in educational infrastructure, institutional development, improving service conditions of teachers and academics to ensure an enabling environment for equitable access to quality education across Jammu and Kashmir.

He called teachers the backbone of society, pointing out that every single profession, whether it is doctors, engineers, soldiers, or police officers, starts with a teacher. He promised that the government would keep working to improve schools, help teachers, and make learning better for everyone.

Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for

Agriculture Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Several Members of Legislative Assembly, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Commissioner Secretary School Education Department, Vice Chancellors of Universities, Director Colleges, Directors of School Education Kashmir and Jammu and other senior officers of the Education Departments were present on the occasion. They were joined by academicians and students in the day-long conclave.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction in the education sector of J&K especially with regard to students; he said, "I leave this conclave with renewed confidence in the future of Jammu and Kashmir."

Jammu Admin gives Amarnath Yatris
free ride on Raahi: Hop Jammu serviceHIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 08

The District Administration Jammu today gave a group of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris a free ride on the Raahi: Hop Jammu bus service along its Sarhad Line, offering pilgrims currently in the city a look at the cultural, historical, agricultural and patriotic heritage of Jammu's border region.

At the launch, Additional Deputy Commissioner Anusya Jamwal interacted with the yatris, introduced them to the bus concept and enquired about their experience in Jammu so far.

The ride showcased Dogra heritage, rural life and agricultural excellence in the border belt of Jammu.



The yatris were given a warm welcome by SDM RS Pura Anuradha Thakur and her team at the Octroi Border Post, where they viewed the International Border and interacted with Border Security Force personnel, gaining insight into the life of the nation's frontier villages.

The itinerary also included a visit to the historic Raghunath Temple, where the pilgrims offered prayers, followed by a visit to the RS Pura basmati fields, known nationally for producing premium-quality aromatic rice.

The pilgrims appreciated the hospitality extended by

the administration and described the free Sarhad Line ride as a memorable addition to their spiritual journey to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnath Ji.

The Raahi: Hop Jammu service will begin commercial operations from July 11 onwards.

DDC, SSP Reasi visits Siyad Baba, Reviews
tourism infrastructure developmentHIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 08

District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek and SSP Mukund Tibrewal today conducted an extensive inspection of the Siyad Baba Waterfall area to review the existing infrastructure and assess the requirements for the planned development of the popular tourist destination.

During the inspection, the DDC took a comprehensive review of the amenities available at the site and interacted with the concerned officers regarding the scope for further improvement. Stressing the need for sustainable development, he directed the concerned department to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of a check dam. The proposed structure is expected to aid in water conservation, regulate water flow and enhance the scenic appeal of the waterfall area while ensuring ecological balance.

To improve the overall visitor experience, he instructed the concerned departments to construct modern public washrooms equipped with adequate sanitation facilities. He also directed the renovation of the existing changing



rooms and the upgradation of bathing ghats to provide safe, convenient and hygienic facilities for tourists and devotees visiting the waterfall.

Emphasizing the importance of public safety, he directed the concerned officers to undertake dredging operations and remove debris accumulated near the waterfall.

He stated that these mea-

sures would facilitate smooth water flow, reduce potential hazards and make the bathing area safer for visitors, particularly during the peak tourist season.

He further instructed the officers to ensure proper cleanliness, regular maintenance and coordinated efforts among all concerned departments for the timely execution of the proposed works.

He underscored the need to preserve the natural beauty of the waterfall while creating quality infrastructure that caters to the growing influx of tourists.

ADC Rakesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Gupta, ACR Nitin Verma, Tehsildar Reasi and Thakrakote and other concerned officers were present during the visit.

Prabhari Officer reviews progress of Aspirational
Block Development Programme in Khawas

RAJOURI, JULY 08: Prabhari Officer for Aspirational Block Khawas, Harleen Kaur Director Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) in Khawas. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, along with senior district officers and sectoral functionaries.



achievements, best practices, beneficiary saturation, challenges and future action plans aimed at improving service delivery.

Deputy Commissioner highlighted the progress achieved under the programme and reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to improving key development indicators through effective implementation of government schemes, strengthened inter-departmental coordination and focused planning.

Emphasising the need

for convergence and last-mile delivery, Harleen Kaur directed all departments to ensure 100 per cent saturation of eligible beneficiaries under welfare schemes, strengthen field-level monitoring and maintain proper documentation under the Aspirational Block Development Programme. She stressed the importance of regular field visits, close monitoring and active community participation for achieving sustainable developmental outcomes.

Appreciating the

progress made in Khawas, the Prabhari Officer lauded the efforts of the District Administration, particularly Deputy Commissioner for initiatives in the education and health sectors, establishment of an ATM facility and construction and operationalisation of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya.

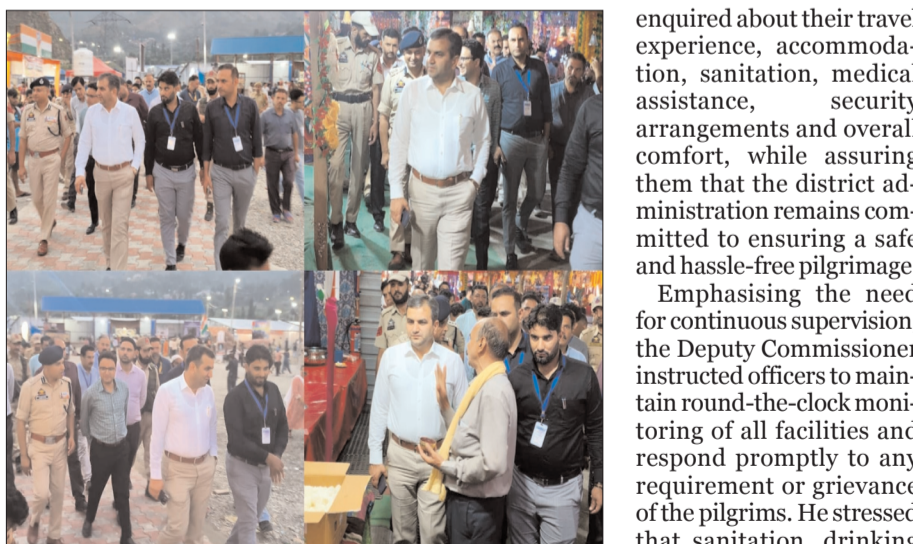
She noted that significant improvement had been witnessed in educational outcomes and commended the dedication of officers and field functionaries.

The inspection was aimed at reviewing the quality, efficiency and timely availability of facilities established for the convenience, safety and comfort of the devotees. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban, Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Banihal, Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; SDM Ramsoo, Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah; and other concerned offi-

DC Ramban inspects Lamber Yatra Camp,
Reviews pilgrim facilities for SANJY-2026HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 08

As part of the ongoing review of arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Lamber Yatra Camp at Banihal to assess the preparedness of various departments and ensure the smooth delivery of essential services to pilgrims.

The inspection was aimed at reviewing the quality, efficiency and timely availability of facilities established for the convenience, safety and comfort of the devotees. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban, Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Banihal, Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; SDM Ramsoo, Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah; and other concerned offi-



cers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Langars and directed the SDM Banihal and the Food Inspector to ensure regular monitoring of food quality, hygiene and availability so that pilgrims are served safe, nutritious and hygienic meals. He also reviewed healthcare arrangements, medical facilities and emergency response services established at the camp.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner further inspected the RFID issuance counters, accommodation facilities, sanitation and cleanliness measures, drinking water supply, security arrangements, traffic management, power and lighting, public conveniences and other amenities put in place for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Interacting with the devotees, the Deputy Commissioner obtained first-hand feedback on the services being provided. He

enquired about their travel experience, accommodation, sanitation, medical assistance, security arrangements and overall comfort, while assuring them that the district administration remains committed to ensuring a safe and hassle-free pilgrimage.

Emphasising the need for continuous supervision, the Deputy Commissioner instructed officers to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of all facilities and respond promptly to any requirement or grievance of the pilgrims. He stressed that sanitation, drinking water, healthcare and other essential public services must be maintained at the highest standards throughout the Yatra.

Calling for seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to remain vigilant and ensure timely delivery of every essential service so that pilgrims passing through District Ramban experience a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching journey.

DC Bandipora presides over Block Diwas at Bonakoot

BANDIPORA, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Wednesday chaired Block Diwas at Bonakoot Block, hearing public grievances and reviewing developmental issues of the area.

The programme was attended by Program Officer ICDS, ACD, ACP, CEO, CMO, and Tehsildar Bandipora, along with Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD, PHE and PMGSY/REW, other district and sectoral officers, and a large gathering of the public.

Public issues spanned healthcare, roads, drinking water, irrigation, power supply, sanitation, banking fa-

ilities, education infrastructure, playgrounds, public transport, tourism promotion and livelihood generation. The DC directed concerned departments to examine grievances on priority, conduct field inspections where required, and ensure timely, coordinated redressal.

On healthcare, she directed the CMO to strengthen services, ensure regular RBSK outreach, and address concerns around the Health and Wellness Centre and Anganwadi facilities in tribal areas. On infrastructure, engineering departments were told to prepare estimates and feasi-

bility reports, expedite pending proposals, pursue clearances and ensure timely completion of works. On power, she sought timelines for RDSS works and directed inspection of vulnerable locations with damaged infrastructure or pole shortages.

Specific local issues raised included the non-functional maternity hospital, implementation of the Forest Rights Act, drinking water supply at Yali Pethkoot, mobile connectivity at Chandaji, road macadamisation, construction of a bus stop, and inclusion of more tribal villages under the Aadi Karmayogi initiative.